

**To:** Amato, Paul[Amato.Paul@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Woo, Nancy[Woo.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ziegler, Sam  
**Sent:** Wed 6/7/2017 6:40:03 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly Reminder and External Events

Hi Paul:

**Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP):** Erica Yelensky and Sam Ziegler will be attending the Santa Monica Bay Governing Board meeting on June 15, 2017. As the new project officer for the SMBNEP, this is Erica's first Governing Board meeting. Topics for consideration will include an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and The Bay Foundation (TBF) regarding the SMBNEP. The amendment concerns organizational adjustments in which the SMBNEP Director will be the TBF Director, while no longer also serving as the Director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and Authority. (Yelensky 2-3021)

### *Upcoming Major Public Events*

Lake Tahoe Summit	8/22/2018	South Lake Tahoe, CA ( <a href="#">Valhalla</a> )	Meeting	WTRSen. Dianne Feinstein hosts the 21st annual Summit/Federal Event to ORAcelebrate <a href="#">Environmental Improvement Program</a> achievements. It has been attended in recent years by other CA and NV senators, CA and NV Governors, and regional agency executives (including the Regional Administrator). The RA has attended Sen. Feinstein's annual luncheon but has not had a speaking role since TMDL approval at the 2011 Summit. This year's themes are likely to include wildfire prevention (on the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Angora Fire) and Lake Tahoe
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Restoration Act reauthorization  
(part of 2016 WIIN).

**Sam Ziegler**  
Chief, Watersheds Section

U.S. EPA Region 9, Water Division



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R9 Watershed Priorities at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/watershed/index.html>

**From:** Amato, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 06, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS <R9\_WTR\_MANAGERS@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Sablad, Elizabeth <Sablade.Elizabeth@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Weekly Reminder and External Events

Sorry for the late notice (I'm getting back in the swing of things) but please email me your Weekly items and any external events through June, or let me know you won't have any, by **noon Wednesday**.

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The Weekly now consists of the following categories:

- *Upcoming Hot Issues and Important Deadlines [Emphasis on Urgent]*
- *Upcoming Major Public Events*
- *Past week accomplishments*

Please try to include items two weeks in advance. In addition, include relevant dates for the items submitted, along with POCs.

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External events now should only include meetings at which EPA has a speaking role. We are reporting the following:

- Name of Event
- Date
- Location
- A short description of the event (no more than 2 sentences)

*(note: names and number of EPA participants not required)*

For reference, here is the current list of upcoming meetings:

International Boundary & Water Commission Citizens Forum	6/1/2017	Imperial Beach, CA	Forum	WTREPA participating in meeting to between IBWC and members of the public in San Diego County. Topics include creating a sustainable water future in Tijuana and an investigative report on the Feb 2017 TJ River Spill.
29th Annual Pacific Islands Environment Conference	6/13/2017	Saipan, CNMI	Conference	LNDActing RA will attend and provide + remarks. Every other year, WTREEnvironmental agencies of CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa sponsor this conference to exchange information on a variety of environmental issues. Almost 300 attendees from across the Pacific

Lake Tahoe Summit 8/22/2015 South Meeting  
Lake  
Tahoe, CA

participate, representing local governments, elected officials, non-profit and community-based organizations, private sector representatives, and professional and university researchers.  
WTR Sen. Dianne Feinstein hosts the 21st annual Summit/Federal Event to celebrate Environmental Improvement Program achievements. This year's themes are likely to include wildfire prevention and Lake Tahoe Restoration Act reauthorization.

Thanks,

Paul F. Amato

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## WEEKLY REPORT

### Region 9

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

**Week Ending May 26, 2017**

### **Water Division**

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#### **Upcoming Hot Issues and Important Deadlines**

**California Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) Orders Lawsuit:** With our assistance, the Department of Justice filed an administrative determination on 5/25 in the U.S. District Court, affirming that California's Temporary Urgency Change Petition Orders (TUCPs), issued as part of Governor Brown's 2014 drought executive order, do not have the effect of revising or creating new water quality standards and therefore, not subject to EPA review and approval. The lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Bay Institute, and Defenders of Wildlife alleges that EPA had a duty to review and act on the TUCPs as their effect (degraded water quality) amounts to a change in water quality standards. Summary judgement briefs are scheduled to be filed on 5/30. (Hashimoto, 2-3452)

**Calleguas Creek Watershed TMDL Revision Approval:** We will be approving the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's TMDL revisions for Lower Calleguas Creek and Mugu Lagoon in Ventura County for copper. Site-specific water effect ratios (WERs) were applied to revise copper numeric targets for the water bodies. All other targets for other metals were not changed. (Tachiki, 2-3161)

**GAO Review of Tribal Water and Wastewater Programs:** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is currently working on a review of federal coordination of tribal drinking water and wastewater infrastructure assistance programs. We recently provided responses to two GAO questionnaires related to our tribal work in California and Arizona, and the extent of our coordination with specific federal agencies. (Sockabasin, 2-3772)

**DHS water resiliency projects:** We are assisting the Department of Homeland Security

with two of their Regional Resiliency Assessment Program projects, to evaluate the status of drinking water, waste water and power systems in the Bay Area and in Southern California and characterize the water and power systems, assess their vulnerabilities to specific hazards, and identify mitigation opportunities. These projects involve DHS and EPA in partnership with several CA and federal agencies, including FEMA, Cal OES, ABAG, CA SWRCB, as well as cities and water utilities and are expected to span a year or more. (MacIer, 2-3569)

### **Upcoming Public Meetings**

### **Past Week Accomplishments**

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**Dr. Robert Leidy- 2017 National Red Heinen Award Recipient:** At the National Wetlands Meeting dinner, Rob Leidy received EPA's Red Heinen Award. The Edward T. "Red" Heinen Wetland Award is presented to those that best exemplify the high standards and personal dedication to wetlands protection. Recipients of this award are recognized for their work and contribution to environmental protection and public service goals. Rob is a founding member of the Region IX wetlands program and has spent the last 32 years as an EPA leader, mentor and strong advocate for the science and protection of aquatic resources. **Congratulations, Rob!** (Amato, 2-3847)

**Lake Tahoe 2016 Annual Average Clarity Result:** The UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) published their Secchi disk monitoring results of deepwater Tahoe clarity for calendar year 2016. Although the results revealed an increase in winter clarity, there was a significant decrease in summer clarity with overall annual clarity decreasing four feet from the previous year. TERC credited stormwater control and watershed restoration projects for winter benefits but blamed summer results on floating algae, that are favored by record-high lake temperatures and extended lake stratification due to climate change. (Landy, 775-589-5248)

### **Other Information**

**Division Director Schedule (May 30 – June 2):** Tomás Torres will be in the office all week.

## **In the News**

<https://www.enviroaccounting.com/TahoeTMDL/News/Display/1065>

# **Climate and Ecology Linked to Lake Tahoe Clarity Decline in 2016**

Second Consecutive Year That Changing Climate Impacted Clarity

By Kat Kerlin on May 18, 2017 in [Environment](#)



Brant C. Allen, field lab director and boat captain for the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center on the research vessel John Le Conte, using a white Secchi disk to measure water clarity in Lake Tahoe. UC Davis has been monitoring the lake's clarity since 1968 (Karin Higgins/UC Davis photo).

Clarity levels at Lake Tahoe in 2016 increased in winter and decreased in summer. The summer values were due to the continuing effects of climate change, according to researchers at the University of California, Davis. The summer declines were so large that they outweighed the improving winter clarity.

Data released today by the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency reported the average annual clarity level for 2016 at 69.2 feet, which is a 3.9-foot decrease from the previous year, but still more than 5 feet greater than the lowest recorded average of 64.1 feet in 1997.

The 2016 clarity level is the average of 30 individual readings taken from January through December 2016. The highest value recorded in 2016 was an astounding 95.1 feet on Jan. 25, and the lowest was 44.3 feet on June 7.

Despite 2016's summer decline, the data record indicates that Lake Tahoe's long-term trend of clarity decline ended about 15 years ago. Since then, clarity has hovered around a value of 71 feet but with sizable inter-annual and seasonal variability.

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Read the full article at: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/climate-and-ecology-linked-lake-tahoe-clarity-decline-2016>